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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

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INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

New Developments

The PRC is resettling 260,000 Indochinese refugees who fled overland in 1978-79, mainly on state farms, and is providing occupational assistance to refugee farmers and fishermen elsewhere in the PRC. It is additionally taking 10,000 more refugees from SEA now to be resettled on Hainan Island. While the PRC has contributed modest amounts of money to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for resettlement of refugees in the past, it has itself now received \$25 million from the UNHCR as well as to the International Red Cross and the UN World Food Program for its own program. China is playing an increasingly active role in international refugee affairs and there is an UNHCR office in Beijing.

We are currently reviewing our budget but expect to be able to continue the U.S. program at an appropriate level in the future.

Points to be Made

-- the U.S. plans to continue its major role in resettlement of Indochinese in this country as a country of resettlement for refugees from Indochina.

-- we appreciate the considerable task the Peoples Republic of China has in resettling some 270,000 Indochinese refugees and are glad to know of the international assistance which the PRC has accepted for this purpose.

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